

SURVEY OF MAJOR USERS OF OMITE 30W
IN THE SOUTHERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

By

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HS-818 Revised December 3, 1980

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SUMMARY

In October 1980, a telephone survey was conducted concerning the use experience of major users of the miticide Omite 30W. Selected major users contacted were in the southern part of the San Joaquin Valley. Questions asked concerned use experience with different types of packaging and the types and severity of skin problems caused by exposure to this formulation of Omite. A list of 42 persons was assembled, and 23 were reached for comment. One person stated that he used only the liquid formulation (6E). The list of 42 names had been assembled from dealers' records to select for the 4 known users of the new water-soluble packaging and for known users of the new 25-pound packaging. They all were believed to have had previous experience with 5-pound packaging.

Fourteen of 18 users of the 25-pound bags of Omite 30W said there was less exposure to mixer/loaders while opening 25-pound bags than by the use of 5-pound bags. The only problem noted with the 25-pound bags was that when a partial bag was needed to finish a tank load, the mixer either had to weigh out the material or use a 5-pound bag. Fourteen of 17 users stated they preferred the 25-pound bag, but most also stated they needed both sizes of bags. Only 6 of 18 surveyed stated they would pay a premium for the 25-pound bag over the 5-pound bag. Most stated that the 25-pound bag should cost less per pound.

Five of those contacted had some use experience with Omite 30W in water-soluble packaging (WSP). No one experienced skin irritation while mixing Omite 30W in WSP. Only one user stated he had a few problems with the WSP dissolving. When asked if they would pay a 10-20¢ per pound premium for WSP, 4 of 5 said they would. Another user, with no experience with Omite in WSP, stated he would pay a premium. Two other users stated they would like to use Omite 30W in WSP.

Those contacted were asked if they could tell the difference between a dermatitis caused by sulfur and one caused by Omite. Five of 21 stated they could tell the difference. When asked if sulfur increased the severity of an Omite dermatitis, 4 of 15 said yes.

The users were asked what they thought would be a safe reentry interval for Omite 30W on grapes. Five said 1 day was safe, 4 stated it should be 2-3 days, 2 said 4-5 days, and 2 said it should be 6-7 days.

Of those questioned, 11 stated that mixer/loaders would be most likely to be exposed to an excessive amount of Omite 30W. Three thought applicators would receive the most exposure to Omite 30W, while 4 thought mixer/loaders and applicators are equally exposed to Omite 30W.

More details are provided in Table One.

Table One

A summary of a survey of 2.3 users of Omite 30W in grape vineyards in the Southern San Joaquin Valley of California as to problems with eye and skin irritations from exposure to this miticide.

PERSON CONTACTED	In your opinion, is there less exposure opening 1 25# bag compared to 5 5# bags of Omite 30W?												COMMENTS
	Did M/L/Applicator experience difficulties in using 25# bags of Omite 30W?												
	Would you pay a premium for 25# bag?												Which would you prefer if cost was the same?
	Can you tell difference between an Omite and a sulfur dermatitis?												
	Does sulfur seem to increase the severity of an Omite dermatitis?												What would be a safe reentry interval for field workers in grapes?
	What type of work activity is most likely to receive the highest exposure to Omite 30W?												
	If so, did you or M/L develop skin or eye irritations while using Omite 30W in water-soluble packaging?												Have you encountered any difficulties in using and handling water-soluble packaging (improper dissolving, storage, etc.)?
	Would you pay premium for Omite 30W in water-soluble packaging over standard bag? (10-20¢/lb)												
1	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes	6 days	M/L	Yes	No	No	Yes	-Developed 3rd° burns from Omite 30W before using water soluble bags. Sulfur makes Omite burn more irritating. -Uses 8# water soluble bags. -Would avoid using Omite 30W if not for water soluble bags - very useful product.
2	No			No	No	Pos-sibly			Yes	No	Yes 1/	Yes	-Always wears gloves while mixing. -No problems at all with skin or eye irritations. -Had to use stick once in a while to stir bags up - MSP wouldn't dissolve well. -Prefers water soluble bags. -5# bags extremely dusty. -Less packaging to dispose of with 25# bag. -Would not pay premium for anything! (25# bag should be less). -Will always pull workers from exposure as soon as they start breaking out. -Water soluble packing would be good idea, but would not pay premium! *Never seen sulfur rash.
3	Yes	No	Never	25#	*	Yes	?	3-4 days	M/L & Appli-cator	No	--	No	-Less exposure w/ 25# bags; easier handling, transport, storage, and disposal are also benefits. -Need to have water soluble packaging. -Mixer, loader, applicator is same worker. *Never seen sulfur rash.
4	Yes	No	Yes	25#	*	Yes	?	--	M/L & Appl.	Yes	No	Yes	

PERSON CONTACTED	QUESTIONS										COMMENTS	
5	Yes <u>1/</u>	No	Yes	25# <u>1/</u>	No	No	—	—	No	—	Yes	-25# bags cost less, less bags to open, save time in handling. Would prefer to use water soluble packaging, if available. 1/Depends a little on tank mix (still need either partials or 5# bags).
6	Yes <u>1/</u>	Yes <u>2/</u>	No	5#	No	No	1 day	M/L	—	—	—	1/Only if whole bag can be used. 2/Hard to pour; not as much spillage with 5# bags; don't have to weigh out if part of 25# bag is needed. 3/Can always use 5# bags; would rather use the E.C. 4/More rashes from sulfur. 5/Problem comes early in morning when there is dew on leaves.
7	Yes <u>1/</u>	Yes <u>2/</u>	No	3/ 5#	No	Yes <u>4/</u>	Prob- 1 day	5/ M/L	—	—	—	-less to dispose of, less problems with storage, transportation, and handling with 25# bags. -Applicator has highest exposure because of drift. *Never seen sulfur rash.
8	Yes	No	No	25#	*	No	—	When Applicator	Yes	No	No	*Uses 200# packages. Uses calamine lotion for irritated skin; is careful not to get on sweaty part of skin. 1/Omite causes very red rash. Sulfur causes eye irritation; no skin rash observed. -Had no problem with skin or eye irritation. 2/Would like to see water soluble packaging.
9	*	*	*	*	Yes <u>1/</u>	No	No	1-2 days	M/L	No <u>2/</u>	—	—

In your opinion, is there less exposure opening 1 25# bag compared to 5 5# bags of Omite 30W?

Did M/L/Applicator experience difficulties in using 25# bags of Omite 30W?

Would you pay a premium for 25# bag?

Which would you prefer if cost was the same?

Can you tell difference between an Omite and a sulfur dermatitis?

Do you have any workers who experience minor burns or irritations who do not see a physician?

Does sulfur seem to increase the severity of an Omite dermatitis?

What would be a safe reentry interval for field workers in grapes?

What type of work activity is most likely to receive the highest exposure to Omite 30W?

Have you had any use experience with Omite 30W in water-soluble packaging?

If so, did you or M/L develop skin or eye irritations while using Omite 30W in water-soluble packaging?

Have you encountered any difficulties in using and handling water-soluble packaging (improper dissolving, storage, etc.)?

Would you pay premium for Omite 30W in water-soluble packaging over standard bag? (10-20¢/lb)

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15	Yes	No	No	25#	Yes 1/	Yes	No	2/	M/L & Appl.	Yes	No	No	No	3/	Much less exposure with 25# bag; but need both. -Try to use 25# as much as possible. -25# bags should cost less. -Rashes not as bad this year because of cool weather. 1/Omite - skin very red, burn. Sulfur - less severe rash. 2/More than 24 hours; "24 hours is pushing your luck." 3/Farmers won't go for 20¢ lb. more for water soluble packaging.
16	No	No	Yes	25#	No	No	No	24 hr.	M/L	No	-	-	-	-	-25# easier to store, handle, transport; less bags to open. -24 hr. reentry is adequate - no skin problems in field workers. -less exposure because of less handling of 25# bags. -Still need some 5# for finishing tank load. -25# bag should cost less. 1/Can't tell visually; but workers complain more with Omite dermatitis - intensity of itching appears to be greater. 2/Not this year; had some 2-3 years ago. 3/Depending on sulfur application; waits 5-7 days after sulfur application.
17	Yes	No	-Yes-	25#	No 1/	No 2/	Yes	48 hrs. 3/	Appli-	No	-	-	-	-	

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18	Yes	No	No	25#	No	No	—	—	M/L	—	—	—	—	-Open fewer 25# bags - don't like 5# bags. -Easier storage, transport and handling. -Need 5# bags to finish tank load. -"Use common sense." -Uses hand lotion before mixing and applying.
19	No	No	No	5#	Yes ^{1/}	No	?	1 week	M/L	—	—	—	—	-Have to weigh out when using partial bags which increases exposure. -Prefers 5# bag; don't have to handle it by hand. -M/L/Applicator same person. 1/Omite - burns skin more severe. Sulfur - skin rash.
20	Yes	No	Yes	25#	*	Yes (some)	No	—	M/L & Appl.	—	—	—	—	-Less exposure with 25# bag; but need both to finish off tank. -Prefer 25# bag for convenience and handling. -Use "prevent" lotion given to them by Uniroyal - worked well. -M/L/Applicator is same person. *Never seen sulfur rash.
21	No ^{1/}	No	No	25#	No	No	No	—	Appli- cators	—	—	—	—	-Like 25# because of convenience. -Doesn't apply when it's over 90 degrees F. -Problem comes with personal hygiene. -Would not want water soluble bags, it is an added expense with no benefit. 1/"No exposure to mixer/loaders." -Prefer 25# bags - don't have to open as many packages.
22	No	No	No	25#	No	No	No	—	—	—	—	—	—	*No problems at all with Omite.

	Yes	No	Yes	25#	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1 day	M/L	Yes	No	No	Yes
14/18	16/18	6/18	14/17	5/15	6/20	4/15	5	11	5			5/5	4/5	5/7
No	Yes	No	5#		No	No	2 days	Appl.				Yes	No	
4/18	2/18	10/18	3/17		14/20	7/15	2	3				Yes	1/5	2/7
		Under- cided				Don't know	3 days	M/L/A						
		2/18				4/15	2	4						
							4 days							
							1							
							5 days							
							1							
							6 days							
							1							
							7 days							
							1							

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Have you encountered any difficulties in using and handling water-soluble packaging? (Improper dissolving, storage, etc.)
Would you pay premium for water-soluble packaging?
(in dollars)

Would you pay premium for Omite 30W in water-soluble packaging over standard bag? (10-20¢/lb)